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PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

1844. No. 44.

February 12.

REV. JAMES H. TODD, D. D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Henry Clare, Esq., was elected a member of the Academy, and the Rev. Charles Graves was elected a member of the Committee of Polite Literature.

Mr. Ball made a communication on a collection of the Irish names of animals, which he had been for many years collecting from ancient manuscripts, dictionaries, persons speaking the Irish language at present, &c. He stated that for one important addition he was indebted to Mr. Curry, who pointed out in a manuscript poem, said to be of the fifth century, ascribed to Caoilte, one of Finn Mac Coole's heroes, and which is certainly older than the year 1000, a portion, in which the names of one hundred animals are recorded in a list of the ransom paid for the celebrated Finn Mac Coole, when a prisoner. Some of the names mentioned have not yet been translated. Mr. Ball observed on the value of such a collection as a means of throwing light on the names of places in Ireland, and urged the interest that naturalists of other countries felt, in preserving the names by which animals were known in their native places, as a sufficient reason for desiring to preserve those of Ireland. He stated his intention of having the collection he had made properly digested and arranged by a competent person, and that he would then offer it to the Academy for publication.

Professor Mac Cullagh made some remarks, of which the following is the substance, concerning the letter communicated by Mr. Lloyd at a former meeting (see Proceedings, p. 520).

The letter read by Mr. Lloyd at a late meeting of the Academy, was written by me immediately after the examination for Fellowships, which was held in Trinity College, in the year 1831. I had been a candidate on that occasion; and Dr. Bartholomew Lloyd, to whom the letter was addressed, had been one of the examiners. The letter contains, among other things, several theorems taken from a geometrical theory of Rotation, with which I had been previously occupied. Soon after it was written, I returned to that theory, for the purpose of improving it in one part where I felt it to be defective, and where, indeed, I experienced the chief difficulty; I mean the part which relates to finding the position of the body at any given time. The method given in my letter for doing this by quadratures, had occurred to me in 1829; but I was, of course, not satisfied with it, and I had in the interval made some attempts to find a method more elegant, and, as far as possible, really geometrical. In the autumn of 1831 I succeeded completely in this, and no further additions of any consequence were made to the theory. The position of the line OI within the body, at any given time, was found by an elliptic function of the first kind, the modulus and amplitude of which are given immediately by geometrical considerations; the modulus of the function being in fact the ratio of the two moduli of the cone which that line, stationary in space, describes within the body. This result was deduced from Theorems I. and II. of the letter. The cone reciprocal to that just mentioned was used to find the position of the body in space. This reciprocal cone,